

Mushrooms are alive and well on the golf course...kind of tells it all.

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## THE WINTER DOLDRUMS

The worst is over and spring golf is right around the corner. Everyone is anxious to get going again but the weather is still a bit unwelcoming. What do you do with this pent-up golfing energy? Many pros suggest you work on your mind game.

Sit yourself in a comfortable chair away from the maddening crowd, cell phone, TV, etc. Turn off the lights, close your eyes, breathe deeply, empty your mind and **relax**. You're walking in the fog, you can feel it on your face and hear the ferries' horns in the background. The fog breaks, the sun is shining and you're on the golf course. You're in the moment of your best golf shot of last year. You address the ball, you feel your slow and purposeful backswing. You pause at the top, your grip is light. You begin your downswing, first the hips then arms from the shoulders...straight, relaxed and accelerating. You hear the whoosh of the club and see the club hit the ball "ping." Your hips are through, your shoulder turns your head forward as your arms are following through long and around your back. You see the ball soaring through the air toward the green. It was a fabulous shot. It feels great; it looks great; it is great.

The mental game is a huge part of golf. If you think you can do it, you will. Recreate that great shot over and over in your mind. Visualize every step of it until it becomes part of you. When you finally get out to the course you will have already mastered one of the hardest parts of the game.



# 8th Annual Soggy Bottom Tournament Feb. 17

Thirty people turned out for this Hospice fundraiser. Why on earth would so many show up in mid-winter? It is of course for a great cause, but we could all just donate our money and stay home in front of a nice cozy fire. What fun is there in that....and miss out on some real golfing fun and good laughs in the first organized event of the year? "FORE,"....yes there were some errant shots since we were all a little rusty. We each had our own ways of keeping warm. Kendal Quaid had his Russian style hat and I saw a couple of flasks being pulled out of golf bags which I'm sure had hot chocolate in them.

Jeff Nichols from the Galley started us out with a fabulous complimentary breakfast at the club. Vaughan Williams, this event's organizer, made up the teams and rules and we all headed out. Of course it's always a mystery what kind of weather will materialize. Years has seen the gamut: rain, mist, fog, wind, fabulous sunshine and even snow last year. This year was a good weather year. A little chilly but sunshine at times and some wind. If you took off your coat coming up 5, you definitely put it back on at 6's tee box. Brrrr, that was a chilling wind coming straight up the fairway.

After play we all gathered at The Galley to await the awards and either sulk about that dub or brag about that drive, and of course get some more of that 'hot chocolate' in us. The winning team was Russell Nash, Scott & Lori Honeywell, Bill White & Kendal Quaid. Long Drive: Scott Honeywell & Diane Robertson KP: Dave Marton & Diane Robertson Closest Putt: Donnie Poole & Barbara Reiswig

There were wonderful raffle prizes contributed from the local businesses: Sunset Builders Supply, The Galley Restaurant, The Islander Resort, The Bay, Lopez Village Market, Lopez Sand & Gravel, Paper Scissors on the Rock & West Shore Salmon.

We raised \$1021 for Hospice this year.

Many thanks to Vaughan Williams, Jeff Nichols, the supporting businesses and all the participants for making this yet another successful Hospice fundraiser.



The great shot



The Winning Team





# LIGC - The Early Years

## 1980's

*And the fun just kept rolling along.....*





# 1980's

And so did the work.....

Clearing for #5 fairway



**Fencing it off**

Hal Horne photo

Work was underway last week on improvements to the Lopez airport. Above, a cyclone fence is installed between the runway and the golf course fairway to keep errant animals (and golfers in search of poorly hit balls, presumably) from wandering in front of planes.



Lopez Golf Club



# 1980's

Odds and Ends.....

## 1982 SCHEDULE

**LOPEZ  
ISLAND  
GOLF  
CLUB,  
inc.**

Lopez, Washington 98261  
468-2679

## 'Friendly' golf course on Lopez

This is the final of a 3-part series with information on the three golf courses in San Juan County.

### LOPEZ ISLAND GOLF CLUB

**Location & Phone:** 7½ miles from ferry next to airport. Take road past Fisherman Bay and then turn right ½ mile on Airport Rd. 468-2679.

**Course:** Private course open to the public. Officially open April to October. 9 holes. Men's par 68, rating 59, yards 4,560. Women's par 68, rating 63.9, yards 4,560.

**History:** Started by B.J. "Mac" McConahy in 1958, the Lopez course is the oldest in the county. It started as a 6-hole course, but was quickly changed to nine. When the links first opened coffee cans were used for cups and flags nailed to pine poles marked the holes. Upon the death of McConahy, club members purchased the facility and have continued to own and operate it.

**Personnel:** Bill and Ilene Ward have been the caretaker-managers the past few years. Al Pilon who has been affiliated with the game of golf for 60 years is available for lessons to members.

**Fees:** Green fees—\$5 for 9

and \$6 for 18 on weekdays and \$6 for 9 and \$7 for 18 on weekends and holidays. For golfers age 18 and under the rate is \$2 for 18 any day of the week.

A membership in the course is \$800 which includes \$200 for initiation and \$600 for a proprietary interest. Annual dues, which include annual green fees, are a very reasonable \$75 per membership. For junior golfers of a member, annual green fees are a mere \$10 per child. Current membership is around 140 with a limit of 150.

Tuesday is Ladies' Day and Thursday is Men's Day.

**Accommodations:** Clubhouse, practice putting green, hand cart rentals, lockers and cart storage for members.

**Food & Beverages:** Soft drinks and candy bars sold

and occasionally hamburgers.

**Lessons:** Members can arrange for lessons from Al Pilon.

**Comments:** Friendly. This word depicts many things on Lopez, and the Lopez Island Golf Club is no exception. The people met were friendly, as is the beautiful clubhouse with its new addition, and of course, the course with its short, cozy layout which can give a healthy boost to the average duffer's ego.

The course is short and only has one of nine holes over 330 yards (compared to Orcas with four and San Juan with seven for the men and three for the women). But as any golfer knows, no matter how easy it may look, seeing and doing are two different things.

The Lopez layout has one

trap (nestled up right of the eighth green) and one small pond (in the ninth fairway). There are several trees and the course is fairly flat. Three of the fairways parallel the airport.

The teeing areas are small, with both mats and grass available to tee up on. Several of the grass teeing areas are well worn. Lopez golfers are proud of their greens, and they have a right to be. Except for the ninth green, the putting areas are not huge, but they are truly what their name suggests—green...plus they are well maintained.

Always seeking to improve their course, the club will soon make some changes. The fourth hole is now a dogleg left, but the hole will be straightened and lengthened and the

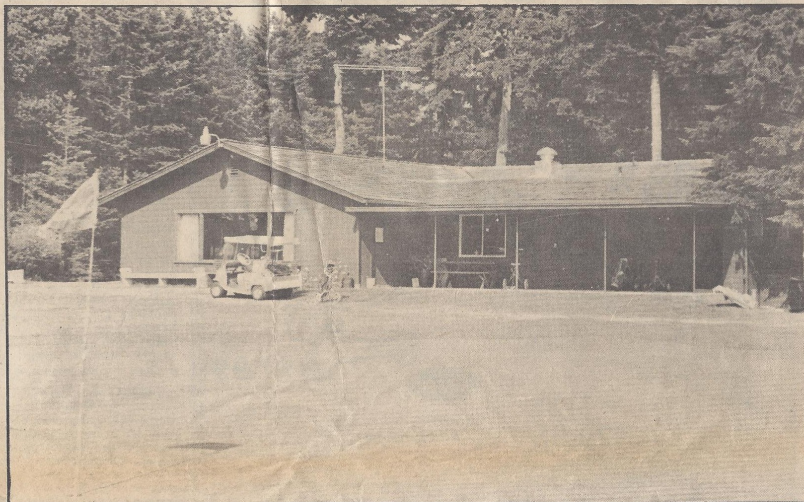
green will be switched to number four. A very short tee shot will follow from a new teeing area to the fifth green (currently the is being added to number six (now the longest hole at 430 yards) to tack on a few additional yards.

One of the biggest assets at Lopez is the beautiful clubhouse. What for the past several years has been a charming facility, the building now is a superb clubhouse...not only for a community the size of Lopez, but many larger clubs would be proud to call it home.

An addition that was open in April following three months work has added several hundred square feet to the building. Most of the large main

room is carpeted, but with good size area left in a hard surface for dancing at social functions. The room includes a television, card table and ping pong table...and it is hoped that sometime in the future a big fireplace might be added. Along one side of the room is a kitchen, and a few feet further away a bar for the members' social gatherings.

The Lopez course is definitely one of the shorter courses one will find and therefore one of the easier, but it is also one of the best places to play in terms of dollars and cents. For a youngster with any yearn for the game at all, at \$2 per 18 it has got to be one of the best deals going. And an adult membership with \$75 annual dues-green fees...it's hard to believe how they do it.



The 9-hole Lopez course is open to the public April to October.

Jeff Brown

May 1982

## Jr. golf program to start

Junior golfers from all islands are invited to take part in the summer golf program at the Lopez Golf Club beginning June 16.

Every Wednesday throughout the summer both boys and girls up to age 17 are welcome to learn the game of golf in a program that will be directed by Duane Bergstrom, a long-time member of the Professional Golfers Association and a golf instructor for many years.

Instruction will begin at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday, and conclude at about 1 p.m. Young

golfers do not have to have a set of clubs or even balls to participate, as Doug James of Lopez has donated 25 dozen balls and Bill Ward of Lopez has donated several sets of clubs. There is no cost for the program.

Bergstrom says "never throw an old club away as it can be fixed up and cut down for smaller players. Also please turn in old golf balls because the juniors can use them for practice."

For further information contact Duane Bergstrom 468-2829 or the Lopez Golf Course 468-2679.



Al Pilon, long-time golf instructor, in spacious remodeled clubhouse.



Three of the very active Lopez golfers are (l to r) Frankie Billesbach, Mae Pilon and Grace Pickering.

# Lopez Island Golf Club



## Helpful Hints

### Five Simple Rules To Owning An Electric Golf Cart

1. Never let the battery plates get exposed
  - \* Check fluid levels starting every two weeks
2. Always fill batteries when fully charged
  - \* Use distilled water only    A water bottle works great
3. Be careful not to overwater
  - \* 1/8" below the sight ring
4. Clean Clean Clean
  - \* Everything in the battery compartment can get wet. Clean it regularly with a hose. Batteries should be clean and dry with no corrosion.
5. Keep Batteries as fully charged as possible
  - \* Especially in the off season

## New Member

**Welcome**  
**Aaron Dye**

## Something New Coming This Golf Season

### Breakfast Club

Starting in April the second Saturday of each month through September you can enjoy breakfast from 9—11 am at the clubhouse. What a great opportunity to meet and greet other members or invite guests for breakfast before heading out for a round of golf.

A five dollar donation per person for breakfast is appreciated. Stay tuned for more information on this fun addition to our summer schedule.

## Rules Tip

### Dropping a ball

A ball to be dropped under the rules, shall be dropped by the player himself. He shall stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop it.

Courtesy of Mary Brown

## Golf Truths

It is surprisingly easy to make a 30 ft putt.....for a 10

ALL Events Are Posted On Our Website

<http://lopezislandgolf.com/>



# Handicap Information

## Mulligans

The USGA Handicap System doesn't want to eliminate a round that has seventeen holes of valid scores if a "mulligan" was played on a single hole. So, for handicap purposes, the hole score made with the mulligan is tossed out and replaced with a hole score that is not considered out of the ordinary for the player, based on his Course Handicap. The player's score becomes par, plus any handicap strokes the player should receive, on the hole(s) in question. A player with a Course Handicap of eighteen receives a stroke on every hole, so that particular player's hole score would be par plus the one stroke, or a bogey.

Courtesy of Mary Brown

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Remember to check out the **EVENTS CALENDAR** in the **DIRECTORY** on the **WEBSITE** for specifics on all the events. <http://lopezislandgolf.com/>

**FREE**

Courtesy of : Lopez Island Golf Club

## 2013 YOUTH GOLF LESSONS



Ages 12 - 18

4 Day Clinic: March 16 10:30-1:30  
March 17 10:30-1:30  
March 23 10:30-1:30  
March 24 9:00-12:00

Contact: Joyce Kruithof 468-4992  
Or sign up with Richard Tetu at LIHS

**Steve Nightingale**  
**PGA Pro**

## March:

**16-17 Youth Clinic 10:30-1:30**

**23 Youth Clinic 10:30-1:30**

**24 Youth Clinic 9-12**

**27: Workday 9-12**

Chipshots: The Newsletter Feb. 2013 Issue

Lopez Island Golf Club

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Original Design by Steven Levy

Produced by Chris Bangsund

Editor: Joyce Kruithof

Rules Tip /Handicap Info: Mary Brown

